AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of listing of claims, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) Polymerisation initiator system, comprising a water-soluble container consisting of a water-soluble azo-initiator or a water-soluble azo-initiator and at least one component selected from the group consisting of water-soluble anti-foaming agents and water-soluble diluent materials~~and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container, wherein a liquid vehicle is not required for stabilization of the initiator~~.

2. (Original) Polymerisation initiator package according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble container is a bag.

3. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the container is made of a water-soluble polymer.

4. (Original) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a water-soluble cellulosic polymer or polyvinylalcohol.

5. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3, wherein the container is an extruded container.

6. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the formula

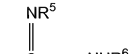
$$(R^1R^2YC)\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}(CZR^3R^4).(2/n)\ HX^{n-}$$

Formula I

wherein

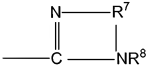
R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each represent the same or a different alkyl group or cycloalkyl group

Y and Z each represent the same or a different group represented by the formula



Formula II

or



Formula III

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, allyl or phenyl group

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or phenyl group

R^7 is an optionally substituted alkylene group

R^8 is a hydroxyalkyl group

X is a anion, wherein n represents its valence, and X is preferably a monovalent anion, more preferably chloride, bromide or acetate.

7. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane), 2,2'-azobis[2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)propane] or a salt thereof.

8. (Currently amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the amount of azo-initiator in the container is in the range of 1 g to 25 kg~~, preferably of 100g to 10 kg~~.

9. (Cancelled)

10-14. Withdrawn

15. (Previously presented) Method for preparing a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble azo-initiator is introduced into the water-soluble container, after which the container is sealed.

16. (Previously presented) Method for handling a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the system is transferred from a polymerisation initiator system manufacturing site to a polymer production site and integrally introduced into a polymerisation reactor.

17. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of powder, crystals, granules, or combinations thereof.

18. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 8, wherein the amount of azo-initiator in the container is in the range of 100g to 10 kg.

19. (New) Polymerisation initiator system, comprising a water-soluble container and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of powder, crystals, granules, or combinations thereof.